anti-bodies are available. These surveillance centres cover 30 cities including the 4 metropolitan cities. The surveillance studies carried out by the ICMR to monitor the prevalence of HIV infection amongst various groups including blood donors show that (i) upto mid 1987 none of the donors screened were seropositive; (ii) Seropositivity amongst blood donors in November, 1988 was only 1.5 per thousand; (iii) the seropositivity rate was relatively higher in metropolitan cities.

Since a large number of sero-positive blood donors were found in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, arrangements have been made in consultation with the State Governments to establish linkages between the blood banks and surveillance centres in Bombay and Madras where screening of blood has already started w.e.f. 16th January, 1989.

The guidelines issued by the Director General of Health Services provide for screening of blood donors in remaining 28 cities where surveillance centres have been established by ICMR.

Cancer patients

*90. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of Cancer patients in the country at present;

(b) whether there has been a considerable increase in the cervix Cancer patients in various States;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to decrease and minimise the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) It is estimated that there are about 15 to 20 lakhs cancer patients in the country at any given time and about 5 lakh new cases occur every year.

(b) The data from Population Based Cancer Registries located in Bangalore, Bombay and Madras show a slight increase in the cervix cancer patients in Bombay and Madras.

(c) Cervix cancer usually occurs due to lack of genital hygiene and multiple pregnancies.

(d) 74 medical colleges have Pap Smearing units under the Post Partum Programme with necessary detection facilities. 16 more medical colleges have been approved during 1988-89 for setting up of this facility.

Facilities for treatment of cancer including radio therapy are available in 95 institutions in the country

Enchancement of grant to Andhra Pradesh for running P.G. courses in Ayurveda

*91. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for enhancement of grant for running P.G. courses in Ayurveda and Unani from the Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in clearing the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Director of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, Andhra Pradesh proposed in his letter dated 21-12-88 for providing additional funds to the tune of Rs. 6.36 lakhs, Rs. 9 lakhs and Rs. 23.67 lakhs for the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

(c) It is not possible to provide additional funds to the State Government due to resource constraints.